PUBLIC INPUT CHART

FOUR MOUNTAIN PARKS MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION STAGE

September 1982

Parks Canada
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PUBLIC
INPUT
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INTRODUCTION STAGE

Participants:

Thank you for your participation to date in this planning program. Your involvement is a necessary component in the preparation of management plans for Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho National Parks.

Public meetings and an extensive mailing list were the two major methods we used to introduce the program to people. The comments and suggestions you and others made during the first phase of our program are summarized on the following pages. These comments and any future suggestions will aid the planning teams in preparing the best possible management plans.

We look forward to hearing from you further as the program proceeds. Once again, thank you for your interest.

Yours sincerely,

W.C. Turnbull
Director
Western Region
Parks Canada

INTRODUCTION

Parks Canada is preparing management plans for the Four Mountain Parks to provide guidelines for the future protection, development, and management of Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho national parks. You have an important role in the preparation of these plans.

During the introductory stage of this planning program, we received many comments and suggestions from our public meetings as well as by letters and telephone calls.

The comments were reviewed and analyzed by the planning teams and then summarized and listed in the Input Chart. The column in the Input Chart titled "Response by Parks Canada" is the reply to your comments. This response is based on the available information at this initial stage of the planning program.

Purpose of the Input Chart

There are three purposes for the Input Chart:

1. It is a method of compiling and summarizing the information supplied by the public. The planning teams will refer to this as one of the sources of information for preparing the management plans.

2. The chart provides an opportunity for the public to see what Parks Canada's response was to their ideas and concerns.

3. This chart also illustrates the diversity of opinion held by the public and enables an individual or group to make sure their particular point of interest has been mentioned.

Excerpts from Parks Canada Policy are included for some topics. These statements are to help clarify your understanding of some of the parameters of the planning program.

If you would like a more detailed response on some topics, do not hesitate to let us know.

Do you see your concerns and suggestions regarding the Four Mountain Parks Management Planning Program on the following pages? If not, forward your remarks to:

Four Mountain Parks Management
Planning Program
Parks Canada
Western Region
P.O. Box 2989, Station M
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3H8

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THE PLANNING PROCESS

INTRODUCTION

As a result of this planning program, management plans will be produced to provide guidelines for the future protection, management and use of Banff, Yoho, Jasper and Kootenay national parks. These plans will reflect the consideration of all various factors such as environmental concerns, public concerns, financial and social concerns, policy implications and levels of service to be provided.

The management plan is not an end in itself; rather it constitutes a framework within which subsequent management, implementation and detailed planning will take place.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
1. Clarify intent of the first phase of the planning program for the public.	The purpose of the first phase was to 1) introduce the program; 2) solicit public response on the park purpose and objective statements; 3) identify additional planning issues; and 4) solicit response regarding the public participation program.
2. Will the plan address the role of the mountain parks in a national system?	Yes.
3. Does the public have the opportunity to review Parks Canada's Policy and Act?	Parks Canada Policy and the National Parks Act are available for public perusal. The policy was formally reviewed by the public in 1979. The Act is reviewed by Parliament each time there is an amendment put forward. Formal review of the policy and act is not in the context of this program; however, input received on policy will be forwarded to the policy section in Ottawa for their consideration.
4. Why did you separate the management planning program for the Four Mountain Parks from townsites, ski areas and the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway?	These areas have already been addressed in separate planning programs. The task of this program is to integrate these plans into the Four Mountain Parks Management Plans.
5. How general will the plan be? Will there be specific recommendations ie. increase the number of backcountry lodges?	These plans will set a general direction for the Four Mountain Parks. There will also be specific recommendations regarding this direction and how it will be achieved.
6. Will the planning program come up with solutions to problems rather than just identifying them?	

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
7. A management plan is needed.	Agreed.
8. All the public's ideas should at least be considered in this program.	All suggestions and comments received from the public will be considered in this program. Each comment is considered in relation to the other planning factors such as Parks Canada's Policy, environmental impacts, the level of service and fiscal constraints. These suggestions along with other data collected, form the basis for developing the management plans.
9. Will Parks Canada set their own direction or follow the demands of the public?	
10. How are the public's comments evaluated?	
11. Will different management positions for different parks be the result of this program?	For problems or issues that are relevant to all four parks, a common approach will be sought. Direction for a specific park will be prepared to deal with problems particular to that park.
12. What is the cost and time frame of this program?	1.1 million dollars and 3 years.
13. What happens after the plan is prepared?	The plan is implemented in the parks. When and where a greater level of detail is required, more detailed plans may need to be developed within the context set by the park management plan.
14. Will the plans be closely followed in the Parks?	Yes, the plan is prepared with the help of park staff and the public and it will reflect what is needed and feasible in the parks.
15. When planning, the parks should be considered as islands of resources.	Increasing land use activities in Alberta and British Columbia are having an impact on park resources and facilities. The parks must be considered in this regional context.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
16. All planning topics or issues must be integrated into the program so people will focus on the overall context of the parks rather than just one issue.	Agreed.
17. Pleased with management objectives so far.	Nice to hear.
18. The purpose and objective statement provide a useful basis of consideration of issues.	Agreed.
19. What is the status of existing development plans?	There is a plan for the town of Banff and the community of Field and a draft town plan for Jasper. There are no approved park management plans for any of the four parks. Existing unit plans, plus such items as the ski area plans and the town plans will be integrated into the overall management plans.
20. What is not working regarding management plans that are already in place?	
21. What is the potential for integrating existing unit plans with this process?	
22. How is data collected for this planning program? What % of the budget is allotted for data collection?	In general, no new data is being collected specifically for this planning program. The main emphasis is on pulling together and analyzing existing information. Approximately 50% of the planning program budget is directed towards this task.
23. Biophysical information is lacking - use it only as baseline information.	The biophysical information contributes a great deal of knowledge on natural resources in the four mountain parks. It has some limitations for this scale of park planning.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
24. Is a result of this program to be a designation of areas in the parks that will be sacrificed to development?	A result of the program may be the development of additional visitor services or facilities. Environmental factors, visitor needs, etc. would be considered in locating new facilities.
25. Have the parks been zoned on an overall basis?	No; however they will be as a result of this program.
26. Does this program mean an overhauling of the parks?	This planning program will result in an identification of the problems affecting the parks and directions for their resolution. Some major changes could be the result.
27. What are the trends for existing and future park use?	National park visitation has generally shown growth of between 4 - 8% a year. Parks Canada is currently trying to determine what the future trends will be.
28. Random sampling from a range of visitors should be used to discern visitor needs.	Valid point. Surveys based on a sample of visitor opinions are used quite often in planning programs, particularly when planning for specific areas within the parks ie. Lake Louise.
29. The management plan will not please everyone.	Agreed. A main objective of this program is to involve the public. Nevertheless, it must be recognized that parks cannot meet all concerns of all people.
30. Have you established criteria to identify "what is a problem or planning issue?"	No such criteria have been established but environmental screening, facility overuse and public comments are some of the factors which help call attention to problems.
31. Is there a requirement for hiring private consultants in this program?	Consultants have been used to date for some work. Future requirements have not been identified at this time.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
32. What new studies have been introduced as part of this planning program?	New studies include: 1. In cooperation with our headquarters office a study has been initiated to determine the extent to which the existing national parks represent the region of the Rocky Mountains and foothills. 2. In cooperation with the University of Calgary, a study has been completed which examined Parks Canada's approach to backcountry management. 3. Also in cooperation with the University of Calgary, a study has been initiated to identify wildlife interactions along park boundaries.
33. Does planning mean development?	Not necessarily. Planning is a means of preparing guidelines for the operation, preservation and possible development of the parks.
34. Is Parks Canada going to continue to meet the demand for development and recreation?	Parks Canada does not currently meet the total demand occurring in peak months for development and services. Parks Canada must develop certain essential services and facilities to aid in providing opportunities for visitor enjoyment and help to protect the environment and the visitor. In this program Parks Canada will be looking at what proportion of the demand it is feasible to meet in the future.
35. Do not have any more development in the park.	The purpose of this planning program is to determine the extent of development in the four parks and if future demands will be met.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
36. Advertize your public meetings more.	Agreed.
37. Involve school children in your program.	Parks Canada will attempt to involve them to any extent we can.
38. Are plans being prepared for other national parks?	Yes - management plans will be completed for all national parks by 1985, the centennial year of national parks in Canada.
39. What type of "alternatives" will be developed?	The development of alternatives is a stage of problem/issue resolution. A range of alternatives pertaining to resource protection and visitor use will be developed based on public input, park staff and other factors such as policy.
40. We should be looking at the U.S.A. park experience.	We do draw on other agencies experience from around the world.

ADMINISTRATION

INTRODUCTION

This planning program will examine some concerns related to Parks Canada's own administrative facilities and activities. Concerns expressed about issues that are not within the scope of this program, such as the relocation of a regional office, will be relayed to headquarters.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
1. Concerned that Parks Canada's rules and regulations are not consistently applied.	This is a legitimate concern. Although some flexibility is required to apply rules to fit the immediate environment, this comment will be brought to the attention of park administrators for further consideration.
2. Rules and regulations seem different from park to park.	There are specific regulations in certain parks which reflect a particular situation which is not common to the other parks.
3. Parks Canada should not have too many rules and regulations.	Certain rules and regulations are needed to provide protection for the parks environment, wildlife and safety of visitors.
4. What are the implications of this program for other national parks?	None. The other national parks will have their own management plans completed by 1985 - Parks Canada's centennial year.
5. What are Parks Canada's priorities? 6. Who are the parks for - wildlife or people?	The protection of significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural resources and the encouragement of public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of these resources are the priorities of Parks Canada.
7. The main purpose of national parks is not to provide a revenue source to business people.	Agreed.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
8. Expand the parks.	The existing mountain parks contain a good representation of the natural resources in the Rocky Mountain Natural Region. Thus, any expansion would be to accommodate special resource needs or to resolve problems. One adjustment in Kootenay National Park is being finalized. Parks Canada and the Province of British Columbia have agreed to exchange 730 hectares of land in the Mt. Berland area (N.W. area of the park) for 629 hectares of land in the Radium and Stoddard Creek area (south of the park). This exchange will resolve the mixed land ownership pattern in the Radium area and provide national park status to the important Rocky Mountain sheep wintering area north of Stoddard Creek. Further details on this land exchange can be obtained from Kootenay National Park office or Parks Canada office in Calgary.
9. The parks are run in a clean and efficient manner.	Thank you.
10. Are the four parks going to be banded together with one superintendent?	No - the parks are being examined in terms of common problems and approaches. The administration structure of the parks, each with its own staff and superintendent, is not being reviewed in this program.
11. There should be better public access to the park level management.	Each park has a superintendent and administrative and operational staff who are available to deal directly with visitors and interested public.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
12. Concerned about limiting use since parks are for everyone.	Parks Canada shares this concern but we are prepared to limit use as a means of protecting the park environment for this and future generations.
13. Is there a moratorium on development until the planning program is over?	No. New proposals are, however, considered in the context of the purpose and objectives of this program.
14. Improve knowledge of summer staff regarding location of outlying commercial accommodation.	Parks Canada is doing this.
15. The administration should be decentralized from Calgary.	Any further decentralization of Parks Canada would have to be considered within the overall operation of the Department of Environment and such a review is not within the mandate of this plannning program.
16. The service and repair shops should be centralized in Golden: more development in Golden; less development in the parks.	
17. Parks Canada should move its regional office from Calgary to Golden.	
18. Use local people to cut wood.	Parks Canada, whenever possible, hires local residents.
19. Revenue generated in the park should be spent in that park.	The money now goes to the Receiver General for Canada. This is a matter subject to parliamentary control and beyond the mandate of this planning program. In general though, funds spent in the parks far exceeds the revenue they receive.
20. Appreciation of Yoho's accommodating the needs of Golden i.e. taking school children from Golden on cross-country ski trips.	Thank you. Parks Canada feels that providing these kinds of opportunities is a very important role.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
21. The Golden Public Advisory Committee to the British Columbia Forest Service, should be more involved with Yoho National Park.	Parks Canada already has regular contact with the forest service although it is not involved with the advisory committee. The suggestion involving the advisory committee with Yoho has been forwarded on to the park superintendent. The advisory committee can also approach the park superintendent on matters of concern to them.
22. Parks Canada should charge a toll for every vehicle going through the parks whether they stop in the parks or not.	Through traffic goes free. Traffic tolls will not be examined in this program.
23. Local people should not have to pay to use the highway.	Free passes are available to residents of the parks.
24. What can be done about the high cost of power in Yoho National Park?	This is not a question the planning program can address. A solution is being developed.
25. The administration of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier national parks should be kept informed and involved in this program.	Agreed.
26. Follow more closely the mandate of preservation.	Agreed. It must be recognized, however, that Parks Canada's mandate requires careful consideration of many factors, including the Act and Policy, public input, natural resources, and regional integration.
27. National parks should be maintained in as pristine state as possible.	A high proportion of the park block is in a natural state and will be maintained that way.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
28. The RCMP should patrol arterial highways such as the Icefields Parkway, releasing the warden service for park as opposed to highway duty.	The RCMP is responsible for patrolling highways for motor vehicle related problems. Wardens primarily patrol for park related purposes such as wildlife, illegal camping, etc. There is a good deal of cooperation and this division of responsibliity is not seen as a problem.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Resource management is an integral part of Parks Canada's ongoing operational activities. As such, this planning program must recognize and integrate such needs as wildlife and vegetation management. Special attention will be paid to resource features or processes which are particularly significant or are jeopardized by existing human use. In developing and evaluating planning alternatives, environmental effects will be carefully considered.

"Natural resources within national parks will be protected and managed with minimal interference to natural processes to ensure perpetuation of naturally evolving land and water environments and their associated species."

(National Parks Policy: Section 3.2.)

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
1. The basic purpose of national parks is preservation.	According to the Act and the policy, national parks have two purposes, preservation and use. The policy clearly indicates that: "Parks Canada will make protection of heritage resources its primary consideration." (Parks Canada Program Policy: 1.1).
2. Will sensitive resource areas be zoned for protection?	Yes. Natural resources in national parks are to be protected. One method used to achieve this protection is zoning.
3. The preservation objective must be continually kept in mind.	Agreed.
4. Natural resources seem to be of secondary importance regarding expenditures.	Resource inventories, environmental investigations, special studies and resource conservation staff account for a significant amount of Parks Canada's budget.
5. What animal species is Parks Canada worried about being affected by increasing use?	Parks Canada is concerned with the protection of all native animals found within the parks. Disturbance to any one species can affect all species. Some animals such as caribou and grizzly seem to be more sensitive to human activities.
6. Feeding the animals seems to be a big problem.	This problem has decreased substantially in the past 15 years due to better public awareness and education.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
7. Log off Storm Mountain burn for firewood (Vermilion Pass).	Parks Canada's policy is to "...ensure the perpetuation of a natural environment essentially unaltered by human activity. Resource extraction activities, such as logging, are not acceptable in national parks. The environment of the post-fire stand at the Vermilion Pass burn requires protection to the same degree as other forests in national parks.
8. Do not log off Storm Mountain burn for firewood.	
9. There should be more programs for resource protection i.e. closure of fire road, reduce road kills.	A number of these types of programs already exist i.e. use of fire roads has been limited to those roads needed for operational purposes.
10. There should be mitigation measures for road and railway kills.	Parks Canada is very concerned with this problem. We have and will continue to be involved with the implementation of a number of methods to reduce wildlife kill, e.g. underpasses and fencing for animals on the new twinned Trans-Canada Highway in Banff, seeding road edges with less palatable grasses.
11. Everytime Parks Canada builds a road in the parks, the elk get killed while eating the grass that grows on the cleared edges.	
12. Concerned about migrating elk which leave the parks and cross private property.	The planning program will be looking at ways to coordinate wildlife management with agencies and individuals responsible for managing lands adjacent to national parks. A study has been initiated to collect information regarding this problem.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
13. Will the pine beetle come as far as Banff? What is the policy regarding this?	Our main policy is to have the natural environment unaltered by human activity. However, manipulation of naturally occurring processes such as fire, insects and disease may take place after monitoring has shown that:
14. How long and far are you prepared to let the pine beetle infestation run its course?	i) there may be serious adverse effects neighbouring lands; or ii) public health or safety is threatened; or iii) major park facilities are threatened; or iv) natural processes have been altered by man and manipulation is required to restore the natural balance; or v) a major natural control is absent from the park; or vi) the continued existence of a plant or animal is critical for representation of the natural region, is threatened by a natural cause such as insects or disease; or vii) the population of an animal species or stage of plant succession which has been prescribed in the objectives for a park, cannot be maintained by natural forces. (National Park Policy: Section 3.2.3).
15. What is the policy regarding forest fires?	Cooperation with agencies managing neighbouring lands play a major role in fire suppression and insect and disease control which are done in national parks.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
16. Prime wildlife habitats should be strictly protected - no recreational development e.g. trails or backcountry shelters.	Parks Canada agrees in principle but this is often difficult to achieve because of past development. Any new facilities which are planned are screened through the Environmental Assessment Review Process to ensure that impact on wildlife is minimized.
17. How is the identification of special and unique resources done?	The planning team is consulting with park staff and researchers and undertaking a literature review in order to identify those resources occurring in the parks which are thought to be "special" (e.g. worthy of Zone I protection). This would include resources that have a high scientific value, are particularly good examples of a natural feature or process, are important wildlife habitats, or are in some other way thought to potentially require special consideration in the management plan. This information will be available for you to review. If you feel that there are other areas that need to be highlighted, they will be considered.
18. Will the provision of facilities for the handicapped compromise resource protection values i.e. paved roads?	Parks Canada has a policy to make a range of services and facilities available to handicapped persons. Which services and facilities depends on consideration of other aspects of our policy such as environmental implications. Provision of any facilities creates some resource impairment.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
19. Access can be difficult at times but if it means you can preserve the area - ok!	
20. Cascade fire road (Banff). Close it entirely to vehicular traffic by removing a bridge. Do not add more fill as it becomes too muddy.	Parks Canada's long-term plan is to close all fire roads and rehabilitate them to a trail standard.
21. Close all fire roads.	
22. Do not encourage more use in the Cascade Area.	Regarding the Cascade Area, use has been discouraged by closing the fire road. Future levels of use for this area will be considered in this program.
23. What is the future of Castleguard Caves and visitor access to them?	Parks Canada's regulations presently restrict access to caves except through a special permit issued by the park superintendent. The Castleguard Caves are a natural resource of outstanding significance and preservation of this feature is paramount.
24. Grizzly and man - that is the greatest conflict situation.	It is of concern. Parks Canada has introduced measures such as garbage management, avoiding locating trails in bear habitat, education of the park visitor and warning and closure signs. These have reduced the problem but we are still working on improvements.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
25. What is the status of the resource inventory for the four parks and what is its usefulness in managing programs?	Yoho - resource inventory is completed. Banff and Jasper - biophysical inventory is partially available in draft format and can be used as a working document. Kootenay - field work in progress. The resource inventories provide the data base for resource management plans and environmental assessments related to development and use. The level of detail of available research is sufficient for this planning program. Parks Canada does continually seek to improve its data base.
26. The drug used to tranquilize bears could be improved.	Wildlife managers in the parks are continually looking for drugs which are more effective and less toxic. The drugs Parks Canada currently uses are the best available to us.

TOURISM

INTRODUCTION

The role of tourism in the four mountain parks and surrounding region and its effect and impact on the environment, facilities and use of these parks is being analyzed in this planning program.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
1. There are economic benefits of tourism.	Agreed.
2. Tourism was the original purpose of national parks.	Yes it was - today the main purpose is to protect and preserve our natural and cultural heritage.
3. Constraints are needed and should be applied to both frontcountry and backcountry visitors.	There are already constraints (rules and regulations). Whether additional constraints are needed, or if some existing ones can be removed, will be considered in this program. In general, knowledge of one's impact on the environment can be more effective than restrictions.
4. How will the public react to use limitations.	The reaction would depend on the circumstances. Any action would be well justified and explained. The acceptance of regulations and limitations is directly related to the understanding of the need.
5. Most visitors are car oriented.	Agreed.
6. Will it be economically feasible for Canadians to visit these parks in competition with foreign visitors?	Yes.
7. What proportion of visitors are from outside the country?	Parks Canada does not have reliable figures on this. It is known that there is a significant proportion of "foreign" visitors during the summer season.
8. What kind of liaison does Parks Canada have with tourist agencies.	Good. Parks Canada co-operates with other tourist agencies.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
9. To avoid crowds, people should consider winter use of the parks.	Yes.
10. What are the patterns of visitation during the shoulder season (spring and fall).	The trend is towards year-round use of the parks with the summer months having heavy to capacity use. Spring and fall season use is increasing.
11. Are problems in the parks compounded by year-round use?	Yes and no - it depends on the location, facilities required and type of use.
12. To what extent does increased demand have to be catered to?	Parks Canada does not plan to accommodate the total demand for facilities and services during the peak visitation season. The extent to which Parks Canada should try and meet this demand wil be looked at in this planning program.
13. What will be the impact of the Olympic ski events if they are held at Lake Louise?	Parks Canada has not received a formal submission regarding the Olympics, therefore we cannot anticipate the impact.
14. Do not allow the Olympics in the National Parks.	A decision regarding the Olympics in National Parks is not within the scope of this program.
15. Does Parks Canada know the number of Edmonton school children that use the parks?	No, however many school groups do use the parks for recreational and educational purposes.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

The potential for new and increased recreational use of the parks will be examined as well as evaluating existing recreation uses to determine if they are appropriate and are taking place in a manner which is consistent with other park objectives.

> "Parks Canada will provide opportunities for outdoor recreation within the Parks Canada system as means for present and future generations to understand and enjoy heritage resources in ways consistent with protection of these resources. Parks Canada's primary concern is to protect and present heritage resources of national significance. Thus public demand for outdoor recreation opportunities in a particular locality is not justification for Parks Canada's participation...Parks Canada can fulfil only some of the recreation needs of Canadians. Other needs can be met in places which do not have national heritage resources."
>
> (Parks Canada Program Policy: Section: 2.3)

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
1. What is the policy of Parks Canada regarding recreation in national parks?	See the Introduction, page 20.
2. What about the trend to "adventure experiences" i.e. outfitters.	There has been an increased interest in "adventure experience" activities such as rafting, dog-sledding etc. Only those types of activities which are consistent with Parks Canada policy will be permitted.
3. There should be redevelopment of historic trails.	The potential to use and interpret historic routes in the parks will be examined in this program.
4. There is conflict between hikers and horse use.	
5. There is conflict between people who use their own horses in the parks and commercial outfitters.	There are recognized problems related to horse use in the backcountry. Management of this type of use in the backcountry is an issue which is being addressed in this program.
6. Concern about trail deterioration due to horse use.	
7. Separate trails for horse use.	
8. Outfitters concerned about being more and more restricted in the parks. To maintain a viable operation they must know what the future is of outfitting in the parks.	Horse outfitting is considered a legitimate activity within national parks. However, a better understanding of the environmental affects of grazing and complaints received from other park users led Parks Canada to develop controls. It is agreed that the future needs of horse outfitting should be clarified.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
9. Ski hill expansion jeopardizes the preservation mandate. 10. What is the role of ski area development plans? 11. Is there an extent to which ski areas will be allowed to develop?	Parks Canada in cooperation with the ski area operations has initiated long range planning studies for each of the ski areas. Any development must recognize the need for high standards of environmental awareness and management due to the national park setting. The first step in developing the long range plans is the preparation by Parks Canada staff of an environmental and park value study to assist in establishing an area's boundary. This study provides the constraints and guidelines for a planning team to then start the preparation of plans that will optimize the recreational skiing potential and minimize environmental impacts. As the detail of the long range plans are developed, an initial environmental evaluation is prepared as part of the environmental assessment review process. By this cooperative process we feel that Parks Canada's preservation mandate is met. When the studies are completed and long range plans agreed to by both Parks Canada and the operators, the boundaries of the ski areas will then be incorporated into the agreements under which the operator is granted the right to develop and operate a ski area. While these agreements constitute approval in principle only, the terms and conditions therein become binding on the operators for the life of the agreement. Developments within the overall approval-in-principle must be subject to specific approvals in terms of the normal scrutiny and controls required by Parks Canada.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
	The procedures described above have been in effect since 1972 and it is hoped that long range plans for each of the four areas will be finalized in the early 1980's. Parks Canada is seeking the viewpoints of the public as the plans are prepared.
	This planning program will look at how increased utilization of these ski areas may affect other park facilities.
12. There should be no snowmobile use in the parks.	Snowmobiling is a recognized recreational activity by Parks Canada. However, the extent to which this activity will be allowed to continue will be examined in this program.
13. Hang gliding should be allowed in the parks.	Presently Parks Canada's regulations prohibit hang gliding in the national parks. The issue of hang gliding is currently under review at headquarters.
14. Caving should be recognized as an acceptable sport in national parks.	Presently access to caves is controlled by permits issued by the Park Superintendent. The question of caving as an acceptable recreational activity will be addressed as part of this plannning program.
15. Scuba diving is an important recreation in the parks.	Scuba diving is a recognized activity in national parks.

BACKCOUNTRY

INTRODUCTION

This program will examine backcountry use and management to ensure that adequate recreational opportunities are being provided and Parks Canada's resource protection mandate is being met.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
1. Improve facilities and services for people using the backcountry.	Parks Canada will examine the types and levels of facilites appropriate in backcountry areas. At present a range of facilities are offered.
2. The backcountry is already well utilized. Some areas are overused. Is a reduction of use being considered.	In some circumstances, use rationing can be a useful management strategy. Quota systems are already in effect in Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho. Overall, backcountry use has not increased greatly in the last 5 years. Use has been reduced in some areas and additional reduction would be considered if deemed necessary.
3. Is there a possibility of a quota system for the backcountry?	There is a quota system already in place in 3 of the mountain parks based on campsite capacities.
4. Limit access to the backcountry.	
5. How can use of the backcountry be encouraged?	A range of backcountry opportunities are now available. If it is decided that use of a particular area should be encouraged, a number of techniques are possible such as increasing the allowable quota, providing more campgrounds and advertising the area through information centres.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
6. Develop a network of backcountry lodges.	Backcountry facilities are a contentious issue in the national parks and will be a major topic addressed in the planning program.
7. Do not develop any more trails or lodges in the backcountry - there are enough.	
8. Supervise backcountry shelters.	
9. Need light shelters in the backcountry for use during storms.	
10. Build where needed a mountain hut or shelter in a remote area to accommodate mountaineers.	
11. There should be a unified system of backcountry operation in the four mountain parks. It would avoid confusion for the visitors.	
12. Want a common check out procedure covering all four parks for backcountry users requiring overnight permits and hazardous use permits.	This is a valid concern. A uniform approach to backcountry operation is being considered and will be reflected in the management plans.
13. What is the basis for establishing levels of backcountry use?	Appropriate levels of use are determined by considering environmental constraints, the physical capacity of facilities (eg. campsites), and social values such as crowding and type of experience being sought. There are no set formulae for determining capacity limits.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
14. Do not like the backcountry permit system.	There are reasons for the backcountry permit system. The permit system allows Parks Canada to maintain a record of levels of use and to apply use restrictions in heavily used areas. It also encourages visitors to consult personally with park staff and enables them to obtain current information regarding backcountry conditions.
15. Backcountry registration system objectionable - inexperienced people rely on it for safety.	There are two aspects to our backcountry registration system. First, there is the backcountry use permit, which is compulsory for overnight backcountry users. This permit is not a registration for safety purposes. Rather it is a management tool for Parks Canada to help spread backcountry use and monitor levels of use. Second, for parties concerned with their safety, they can voluntarily obtain a hazardous use permit. Return of this permit is mandatory upon trip completion.
16. What is the policy on reservation of backcountry campsites?	Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho national parks have a system which allows backcountry users to reserve a campsite ahead of time. As the system varies from park to park, contact the specific park for details.
17. Upgrade trails.	There is a regular program of upgrading trails to established standards within all national parks.
18. There is adequate service in the backcountry.	
19. What % of visitors use the backcountry?	Parks Canada's figures indicate that approximately 1% of park visitors stay overnight in the backcountry. All users to the parks benefit from the parks' backcountry areas. Natural environment, wildlife and scenery are all directly related to the presence of backcountry areas.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
20. Permission wanted to hold mountaineering camps in remote areas of parks and to use pack trains or helicopters to lift in necessary support (tents, food and some baggage) into the backcountry.	Activities of this nature are presently regulated by Parks Canada. In this planning program the continued appropriateness of large groups in the backcountry will be examined.
21. Provide firewood.	Firewood is provided at some backcountry campsites. This service and the use of campfires in the backcountry will be examined in this planning program. Parks Canada encourages visitors to use pack stoves.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

This program will examine the range of facilities and services that should be provided to allow a variety of people to enjoy the natural environment of national parks. An integral part of this review would include the possibility of establishing limits to growth for certain types of facilities and uses.

> "Parks Canada will ensure that those facilities and services which are essential and appropriate for public access, understanding and enjoyment are provided and maintained to an appropriate standard...the type, location, scale, design and means by which such facilities and services are provided will reflect particular circumstances."
>
> (Parks Canada Program Policy: Section 2.4.)

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
1. Provide facilities which make the parks accessible to the handicapped.	Provision of facilities for handicapped people is essential and a consideration of current Parks Canada planning programs including this one.
2. Provide opportunities and programs for the elderly and the handicapped.	Parks Canada provides a range of experiences for people of varying means, interests and abilities.
3. A range of experiences should be made available for a cross-section of the public.	
4. Design some of your displays so they can be viewed by handicapped persons and children.	Most of our recently designed exhibits have been made accessible to handicapped persons and children through the use of hardened trail surfaces, ramps and variation in displays heights. While it is not possible for children and handicapped persons to enjoy all visitor opportunities in the parks, it is Parks Canada's policy to provide a good range of opportunities.
5. Because of a concern for conservation-limit development.	Developments in national parks are assessed on the basis of the need for the service and their environmental implications before being approved.
6. In spite of the public requesting preservation-development keeps occurring.	Over the last ten years, the trend has been an increase in visitation to the parks. Some facilities and services must be provided. Parks Canada does not intend to meet all demands and will endeavour to establish through this program, appropriate levels and types of development.
7. Encourage tourist development outside the parks.	Parks Canada does this (e.g. through its involvement with tourist agencies).

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
8. Parks' facilities should be expanded to meet the increase in the tourist industry.	The demand for services and facilities is highest in peak months (June, July, and August). Parks Canada does not intend to develop facilities solely to meet this demand.
9. How close to use saturation point are we in peak months?	At the present times the parks are basically operating at capacity in the summer months.
10. What are visitor services?	They are those services and facilities which are essential and appropriate for public access, understanding and enjoyment of the parks.
11. Do not agree with lack of essential facilities or poor trail upkeep.	Agreed.
12. Maximize use of visitor facilities that Parks Canada already has.	Good idea, though in some instances Parks Canada must balance optimum versus maximum use of its facilities and services. Other factors not controlled by Parks Canada make it difficult to maximize use.
13. Parks Canada and private industry should cooperate to provide services for visitors in the shoulder season. 14. Parks Canada's facilities should be kept open longer - in terms of both hours and season. 15. Utilize facilities on a year-round basis.	Parks Canada recognizes that the visitor season is increasing in length. This will be considered, although the demand must be weighed relative to costs and manpower involved. Some facilities are now kept open on a year-round basis such as information centres and certain campgrounds in Banff and Jasper.
16. Facilities and services like outfitters help to preserve the environment by controlling use.	Certain facilities and services do help to control and channel visitor use. Uncontrolled use in the past has caused some environmental damage and disruption to other park visitors.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
17. Centralize services and facilities, i.e. campgrounds.	It is Parks Canada's intent to centralize services and facilities as much as possible to avoid having strip development along highway corridors.
18. Develop additional facilities along highway corridor.	
19. What options are there for controlling visitor limits of use?	Some of the various options of controlling the level and type of visitor use include; the provision and spatial allocation of facilities and services, resource management plans and land use zoning which is a resource-based approach by which areas of the park are classified according to their need for protection and their capacity to accommodate visitors. Land use zoning is a resource-based approach by which areas of the park are classified according to their need for protection and their capacity to accommodate visitors. The provision and design of facilities and services and resource management plans are also other methods of protecting resources.
20. Is a large visitor centre planned for the Jasper/Banff boundary?	Parks Canada does plan to expand the existing information centre and parking facilities at the Columbia Icefield. At the moment there are no other plans for development in that area.
21. There is a lack of trail signs.	Trail signage in the mountain parks has been under study. Improvements are currently being implemented.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
22. Constraints on use are needed and should be applied to both backcountry and frontcountry.	Agreed. Various options will be considered in this planning program such as quota systems.
23. What is the relationship regarding the amount of expenditures and type of use i.e. the budget for trail maintenance and the number of trail users.	The budget for each facility or service does not directly correspond to the numbers of people who use it.
24. Sanitary facilities for backcountry users need improvements.	Visitors must cooperate in terms of packing garbage out of the backcountry and be responsible for the appropriate disposal of their own human waste while in the backcountry. Parks Canada has a responsibility to inform the public regarding appropriate backcountry behavior.
25. Maligne Lake Ski Club hut - is the situation the same as the Alpine Club?	Yes - in terms of their license of occupation they are required, when their facility is open, to allow anyone to use it on a first come, first serve basis.
26. Will the Miette Hot Springs Pool be redeveloped?	Yes.
27. Will the Miette Pool be moved nearer Highway 16 and permit year-round use?	It will remain as close to the springs as possible. The new design will permit an extended season, if feasible.
28. Are there plans for further development along Miette Hot Springs Road (Fiddle River Valley)?	Existing area and facilities are being upgraded. The campground is being moved to the Pocahontas Area.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
29. Has Parks Canada asked visitors what they want?	Yes - Numerous visitor surveys have been conducted in conjunction with various planning projects. There is also considerable informal feedback from visitors as well as formal public consultation programs such as this one.
30. Will the hot pool in Kootenay be expanded?	There are no existing plans for expansion of the pool.
31. What is the future of snowmobiling at Bow Lake?	There are no current plans to change the existing situation. However, a change could result as a consequence of this program.
32. Why do snowmobile users have to register?	This provides an opportunity to gather and give information regarding snowmobiling and to maintain control of smowmobile use.
33. It is inconvenient for some climbers to register at Lake Louise instead of Saskatchewan Crossing when they are coming from Rocky Mountain House.	Agreed. Parks Canada, however, does not have the resource to provide 24 hour, 7 day a week service in this area. Climbers can register at the Saskatchewan Crossing warden station and information bureau during office hours or at the Banff Warden office 24 hours a day.

ACCOMMODATION

INTRODUCTION

The range of visitor accommodation will be examined in this planning program to determine if the supply of accommodation facilities is sufficient and appropriate for the future. Existing accommodation will be evaluated to determine if it can be improved to meet visitor requirements and reduce environmental impacts.

> "Within national parks, preference will be given to basic accommodation facilities such as campgrounds, hostels and shelters which enhance visitor's appreciation and enjoyment of the park's natural values...National Parks lands will not be available for development of new private cottages or camps...Condominium ownership of visitor accommodation will not be permitted."
>
> (National Parks Policy: Section 4.3.10)

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
1. Expand campgrounds. 2. Need more overflow campgrounds. 3. Establish a reservation system for campgrounds as there is great difficulty in getting a site in busy periods. 4. Campgrounds should be expanded every year. 5. Establish walk-in campsites. 6. Campgrounds after 8 p.m. are full. 7. There should be a reservation system for camping - specific spaces for R.V.'s and special sites for tents. 8. There should be better campsites, both road and backcountry. 9. Reopen the campsites along Kootenay Highway that have been closed.	The entire campground system will be examined in this planning program. Parks Canada will be assessing the long range demand and our capability in terms of resources to meet it. Considered will be the types of services and facilities at campgrounds, the distribution of information regarding the availability of campsites as well as the environmental impact of these facilities on a diminishing resource base.
10. There should be definite limits set on the number of car-campsites and hotel beds.	The question of limits to growth is an important element to be considered in this program.
11. Have campsites for canoeists.	Parks Canada has looked at recreational use of the waterways. There are campsites along some of the major water routes. Canoe accessible campsites will be examined as part of our review of camping in general.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
12. Phase out outlying commercial accommodation i.e. Emerald Lake and Lake O'Hara.	All commercial accommodation outside the townsites will be examined in this planning program to determine their long term future.
13. Convention facilities such as those that Emerald Lake will be providing do not belong in a national park.	Convention facilities on their own are not appropriate but in conjunction with other facilities which allow visitors to enjoy the park, they are acceptable.
14. Is Parks Canada concerned about the effects of a single concession operating a large number of lodges?	No. Parks Canada is concerned though that a variety of accommodation facilities be provided.
15. Within the four mountain parks - there should be a range of accommodation.	Agreed.
16. Parks Canada should subsidize low-cost accommodation.	Parks Canada does not pay subsidies. There are, however, other forms of relief that could be considered to make low cost accommodation attractive (e.g. leasing arrangements).
17. Low cost accommodation needed.	Agreed.
18. Retain such places as Cathedral Mountain Chalets in Yoho as they represent accommodation at a modest price.	Parks Canada would like a range of accommodation within the parks. Commerical facilities are private developments on land owned by Parks Canada and we cannot guarantee that they will continue to operate.
19. Can a longer tenure be granted to older bungalow camps?	The future of bungalow camps is a consideration of the program and this factor will be examined.
20. Staff housing in Banff is almost impossible due to high costs and lack of availability.	This is a recognized problem. The town plan for Banff has set out recommendations in this regard.

TOWNS

INTRODUCTION

Although the details of land use within the towns will not be examined in this planning program, the long term role of each town will be determined, taking into consideration the town's impact on the rest of the park.

> "Because of their size, permanent population, year round services and extensive municipal infrastructure, Banff and Jasper are classified as national park towns...Existing towns (Banff and Jasper) will be limited to boundaries established by legislation...no new towns will be developed within national parks..."
>
> (National Parks Policy: Section 4.3.12)

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
1. What is the role of townsites in the planning program?	The townsites are integral parts of Banff and Jasper national parks. Planning related to the development of the townsites does not fall within the terms of reference of this planning program although the townsite plans are to be integrated into the overall management plan.
2. What is the status of the town plans?	The Banff Town Plan was approved in 1979. Jasper has a draft plan.
3. Concerned about the growth of the townsites. 4. Jasper town is not a "real community" - do not expand it. 5. Are the boundaries for the towns set?	The Banff Town Plan suggests the limits of the town will be restricted to the present boundaries. Jasper's limits are defined in the draft town plan. However, in discussions related to local government for the towns, it was generally acknowledged by Parks Canada that some expansion of the boundaries for Banff might be necessary.
6. Townsites do not belong in national parks.	Parks Canada has accepted the fact that Banff and Jasper Towns do exist, are historical legacies and provide services and facilities for park visitors. Jasper town's role as a divisional point for the C.N.R. was reassessed and reaffirmed by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada in 1975.
7. Banff and Jasper are not just for commercial development.	Agreed.
8. There is a need to develop townsites to meet visitor needs.	While providing some services and facilities for visitors, the towns can never be expected to meet the total peak visitation demands. Wherever possible, development of commercial services is being encouraged outside park boundaries in communities such as Canmore.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
9. There are other national parks without towns in them - how do they operate?	Administrative services as well as the greater portion of commercial visitor services are located in the nearest communities outside the park.
10. Losing tax money due to lack of approved townsite plans.	The lack of a locally approved town plan for Jasper is in part responsible for holding up development of some areas of tne town.
11. Is there a plan for Field?	Yes. The Field Community Plan was approved in 1980. However, the assumptions on which that plan was based are currently being reviewed. The goal set out in the plan is to ensure that housing, commercial, institutional and recreational facilities and services are provided to meet residents' needs and that the community would not be developed as a visitor services centre.
12. What is the relationship of the capacity of Marmot Ski Area and Jasper Townsite?	There is a direct relationship between available overnight accommodation and ski area capacity. This was addressed in the preparation of plans for both the town and the ski area.
13. Keep people in the right places - the towns.	National parks towns are intended to provide essential services needed by visitors to aid their enjoyment of the heritage resources. It is not intended that a visitor's park experience be limited to the towns.
14. Do you have to work in Banff to live in Banff?	In order to reside in Banff, individuals must be employed in the operation of the park or provide services to visitors. He or she (and families) is then considered to have a need to reside.

TRANSPORTATION

INTRODUCTION

In this planning program the demand on park roads in the future will be examined. If and how this demand should be accommodated will be determined and the implications for other park uses and facilities will be assessed.

> "Access to and circulation within national parks will be encouraged so as to provide the public with the opportunity of understanding and enjoying the park in conformity with the zoning plan...Air transportation will not be permitted within national parks except in strictly controlled circumstances...New communication, transportation and utility corridors will not be routed through national parks."
>
> (National Parks Policy: Section 4.3.9)

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
1. Plan and develop for future transportation needs. 2. What are future implications regarding transportation? 3. If the Crowsnest Route were improved it would help alleviate traffic pressure. 4. The problem between commercial traffic and tourist traffic can only get worse in the future. 5. Why aren't people being encouraged to use public transportation rather than their own car? 6. Will this program deal with the loss of Jasper's passenger rail service?	The recent Environmental Assessment Review Panel's public hearings on the proposal by Public Works Canada to four-lane the Trans Canada Highway west of Banff, brought into focus the need for broad examinations of future transportation needs in the national parks. A recommendation from the hearings is that a multi-agency assessment of future transportation needs be undertaken and address such items as alternative corridors, changing patterns in travel and trends in modes of transportation such as buses and trains. Parks Canada supports this proposal. (Phase I - from the Banff East Gate to just east of the traffic circle; Phase II, from the end of Phase I to the Sunshine Turnoff). The reduction of rail access to Jasper National Park was a decision of Transport Canada. The potential for use of railway access will be considered in this planning program as part of an overall examination of transportation needs for the parks.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
7. What is the potential of developing Howse Pass route? 8. What is the province's position on a road through Howse Pass? 9. Put a road through Howse Pass. 10. Do not put a road through Howse Pass. 11. What is Parks Canada's position on a highway through Howse Pass? 12. The proposed Elk and Howse Pass routes should be developed for truck traffic.	Parks Canada's position is that a road through Howse Pass is not acceptable since there are alternative routes through other passes.
13. How can Parks Canada justify the twinning of the Trans Canada Highway? (T.C.H.) 14. You should twin the highway through Banff and Yoho parks. 15. You should twin the highway at least to Lake Louise. 16. Improve the road from Yoho to Golden. 17. What are the costs and time-frame for twinning the T.C.H.?	The Trans-Canada Highway through Banff and Yoho and the Yellowhead Highway through Jasper are considered national transportation facilities and as such are constructed under the auspices of Public Works Canada rather than the conservation program of Parks Canada. Parks Canada recognizes the national importance of these arteries and within strict environmental parameters accepts the need for improvements such as 4-laning when such need has been demonstrated. Phases I and II will be completed by 1988 and the total cost will be approximately 50 million dollars. The road from Golden to the west gate of Yoho is the responsibility of the province.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
18. Will the Yellowhead Highway be twinned from the East Park Gate to Jasper Townsite? 19. There is a commitment from the province of Alberta to twin Highway 16 (Yellowhead Route) to the park gate in the next 10 years. What will happen to the park?	There appears to be no need to twin the highway in the park in the near future.
20. Commercial traffic should travel at night in the parks. 21. If trucks are forced to travel at night, tourists should have to travel during the day. 22. Is there any mechanism to keep down the number of commercial vehicles on highways in the parks? 23. Can Parks Canada eliminate conflict between truck traffic and tourist traffic i.e. provide more pull offs and viewpoints for visitors.	The commerce associated with trucking on the arterial highways is important to the economic well-being of Western Canada. To the extent that schedules and delivery deadlines permit, truckers prefer to avoid these highways during daylight hours and on peak periods of use such as holiday weekends. It is Parks Canada's intent that on the Trans Canada Highway as few visitor facilities as possible be developed in order to facilitate through traffic using the road. In an effort to separate through traffic from visitor traffic, a program to reconstruct Highway 1A from Banff to Lake Louise is now under way and over half completed. An extensive variety of facilities for the park visitors is being provided along this highway, now renamed the Bow Valley Parkway.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
24. Something has to be done at Mount Wardle (Kootenay) to relieve the traffic congestion when wildlife is on the side of the road.	This is a problem in a number of locations in the parks. There has been considerable amount done in the past in an attempt to rectify this problem such as more pull offs and signs. Parks Canada is continuing to examine other methods to reduce this problem.
25. Has there been any thought given to relinquishing the corridor along the Trans-Canada Highway?	In the mid to late '70s there was preliminary discussion between Parks Canada and the Ministry of Transport and the Province of Alberta. Our present policy is to retain all lands presently under Parks Canada's jurisdiction.
26. What are Parks Canada's controls on commercial helicopter use?	Helicopters can land only at the airstrip, other helicopter access is permitted only by permission of the park superintendent for special circumstances.
27. Concerned about future of Jasper airstrip.	The Jasper airstrip will not be expanded.
28. Need better utilization of Icefields Parkway in view of high maintenance costs.	Noted.
29. Is Parks Canada going to remove parking from the lakeside at Lake Louise and establish public transportation?	These options were examined in the planning and public consultation program for the Lake Louise Visitor Centre. It has been concluded that the cost of providing public transportation is prohibitive at this time, but it is hoped such a service could be introduced in the future. In the meantime, the lakeside parking area is being improved.
30. Is there communication between Parks Canada and the railway to establish a rapid transit train system to transport skiers?	There has been no formal communication. The ski areas have, however, approached the railways and at the present time Via Rail is of the opinion that anticipated patronage would not justify the service.

INFORMATION/INTERPRETATION

INTRODUCTION

Parks Canada's existing system of communication to the public will be examined as part of this planning program. This will include the general aspects of information distribution and interpretation both inside the four parks and in extension areas outside the parks.

> Parks Canada Policy (1979) states that "Parks Canada will inform the general public of its programs, activities, policies, plans and management practices...undertake interpretation programs within parks and through extension programs to illustrate the meaning and value of heritage resources...provide information to make visitors aware of the opportunities for the enjoyment of heritage resources."
>
> (Parks Canada Program Policy: Section 2.1)

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
1. Will proposals for visitor education and extension programs be part of this planning program?	Yes.
2. Need increased educational programs for all ages.	Parks Canada has been increasing its range of programs for interpretation over the years.
3. Develop a greater appreciation of national parks at an earlier age.	Yes, this is important. Parks Canada is cooperating with educational institutions to accomplish this. Some resource materials have already been prepared for distribution to schools (teacher resource packages - edukits).
4. Improve information availability.	Parks Canada recognizes that there are inadequacies in the present public information systems. We are examining the type of information and method of distribution as part of the planning program.
5. Poor information distribution and response to inquiries.	
6. Visitors need more publications.	
7. Parks Canada needs properly planned facilities for interpretation.	Agreed.
8. Develop better information so people will know what to expect in the parks.	This will be examined as part of this planning program.
9. Interpretive centres do not reach visitors travelling along highways or overnight campers.	The role and locations of existing interpretive centres and proposals for new centres will be examined as part of this planning program.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
10. Volunteers should be used to help educate the public.	Agreed. More effective volunteer programs have to be established in the mountain parks. Efforts are under way to improve and expand these programs.
11. There should be a coordinated effort in the dissemination of information between various centres.	Agreed. Efforts continue to improve dissemination of information between and within park centres and between parks and other agencies. This will be addressed as part of the planning program.
12. The operators of commercial businesses in the parks have a role in educating the public.	Parks Canada is encouraging this. Information packages are available along with staff training and orientation.
13. There are a lot of messages Parks Canada should be giving the public i.e. being prepared for the backcountry.	Agreed. both the type of backcountry information and its distribution are being examined in this program.
14. There should be an education program as to why access to the backcountry is limited.	Backcountry user's cooperation with park regulations is directly related to how well they understand the reason for them.
15. Information regarding backcountry use, i.e. opportunities and regulations, should be distributed at park gates.	
16. Parks Canada should increase the use of radio and television in conveying its programs.	More effective use of radio and TV is a possibility that will be further considered.
17. Need to educate the public on a national basis, regarding the value of the national parks and their uses.	This comment will be referred to Headquarters staff for evaluation.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
18. Make interpretive programs available outside the parks.	Some interpretation is available outside the parks i.e. films, newspaper articles, publications, exhibits and school materials (edukits). This planning program will be examining extension activities as part of an overall review of interpretation and information programs.
19. Inform park visitors of the dangers.	Agreed. There are some publications which provide this information, (i.e., "You are in Bear Country", "Backcountry User's Guide", "Pest Leaflet - Tick".) As well, wardens, information attendants and interpreters try to inform park visitors of potential hazards.
20. The public should have access to complete studies rather than summaries.	Copies of complete studies by or for Parks Canada are generally available on request.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION

INTRODUCTION

Those activities, facilities and processes which occur outside the four parks and which influence the resources and uses within the parks, will be examined in this program. The impact and implications of these external influences as well as the effects the parks generate in the region will be analyzed for consideration in the development of management plans.

> "Parks Canada will seek to integrate elements of the Parks Canada system with surrounding regions so as to have a positive social, economic and physical impact...Parks Canada will cooperate with provincial and territorial agencies...so as to resolve social, economic and physical impacts in a fashion compatible with Parks Canada's objectives."
>
> (Parks Canada Program Policy: Section 3.3.)

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
1. What is the relationship of the mountain parks to provincial recreation lands? 2. Concerned about the void in planning between the provinces and the federal government.	An attempt is made by Parks Canada to plan and manage national parks so that positive social, economic and physical benefits are provided to surrounding regions. In this program, particular attention will be directed to the integration of recreational opportunities at a regional level. This will require co-ordinated planning with the governments of Alberta and British Columbia.
3. The province is more interested in development than preservation with regard to its parks - it is up to Parks Canada to protect the environment.	Parks Canada policy gives primary consideration to the protection of natural and human heritage resources. Resource protection is a prerequisite for park use and enjoyment by present and future generations.
4. We should be planning within the parks for the increased growth of Calgary and Edmonton.	The role of these parks in the provision of regional recreational opportunities is an important element of this program. Future growth projections will be taken into consideration in the formulation of planning recommendations.
5. There should be better coordination in visitor services between national and provincial parks. 6. Provincial parks should provide recreational opportunities.	It is recognized by Parks Canada and the governments of Alberta and British Columbia that integrated recreational land use planning is required. In this planning program, Parks Canada will attempt to define its role and function in a regional context. Nonetheless, the agency's primary consideration for heritage resource protection will prevail.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
7. It would be nice to see development of ski areas and townsites outside the national parks - but the province seems to feel conservation is important to them. Who will develop recreational opportunities?	Parks Canada policy does not permit new ski areas to be developed in national parks. Specific decisions concerning future ski area developments on provincial lands is beyond the purview of Parks Canada and this planning program.
8. What is happening with regard to development along the David Thompson Highway?	Parks Canada has no plans to extend the David Thompson Highway into British Columbia. Additional facility expansion in the Saskatchewan Crossing area will be discussed in the planning program.
9. There is an increased use along Parks Canada's boundaries.	Parks Canada is concerned about increased use along national park boundaries and this matter is being given attention through coordinated planning with the provinces.
10. There should be connecting trails between provincial forestry areas, parks and national parks.	As part of this program, attention will be given to the planning and development of a trail system which is integrated between the national parks and adjacent provincial lands.
11. Will there be liaison with the provincial government regarding trails along the borders of the parks and development of historic trails like the David Thompson Route?	
12. Encourage commercial development outside the parks.	Parks Canada already supports the development, where feasible of commercial facilities outside the national parks.

PUBLIC CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS	*RESPONSE BY PARKS CANADA*
13. Regarding the projected growth of Hinton, what will be the impact on the parks?	The establishment of commercial facilities in Hinton could reduce development pressures in the town of Jasper. Conversely, the increased population growth of Hinton could increase the recreational pressures on Jasper. Obviously, co-ordinated planning is required with the appropriate provincial agencies.
14. Hinton should expand to provide services - Jasper should not.	
15. What is the extent of Parks Canada's involvement with the Brazeau Forest Management Agreement?	The Province of Alberta plans to hold public hearings this summer (1982) on the Brazeau Timber Development area. Parks Canada is concerned that such development and its associated infrastructure could result in increasing use pressures on adjacent provincial lands (Eastern Slopes) with spillover effects on Banff and Jasper. Parks Canada's concerns are expressed and being examined through its involvement in the provincial integrated management planning programs for the Nordegg-Red Deer and Rocky-North Saskatchewan Plan areas, within which the Brazeau Timber Development area is located.
16. What are the proposals for Siffleur Wilderness area?	The Siffleur Wilderness Area is administered by the Alberta Forest Service. In circumstances involving planning programs for adjacent provincial Crown Lands, Parks Canada is usually identified as a participating member in the planning program. For details on the Siffleur Wilderness Area, please contact the Alberta Forest Service.
17. Does the province have jurisdiction of the Howse Pass route?	The route is partly in Banff National Park and partly in British Columbia.

POOR

QUALITY

ORIGINAL